rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements, plant protection equipments, farmer's training, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmer's field to transfer the production technology.

Statement

Estimates of production of groundnut

STATE	PRODUCTION ('000 Tonnes)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	2545.7	1670.7	2426.2
Bihar	4.9	4.8	4.3
Goa	2.0	2.1	1.9
Gujarat	676.6	2380.1	1028.3
Haryana	1.7	1.8	1.7
Himachal Pradesh	0.4	0.4	0.4
Jammu & Kashmir	0.2	0.1	0.1
Karnataka	1198.9	945.5	1156.0
Kerala	9.5	12.8.	12.5
Madhya Pradesh	275.0	214.3	290.6
Maharashtra	769.2	629.2	576.4
Nagaland	0.5	0.5	1.0
Orissa	114.0	98.2	92.3
Punjab	9.0	8.0	8.0
Rajasthan	209.3	197.5	163.6
Tamil Nadu	1865.6	1762.4	1911.6
Tripura	2.2	1.9	1.3
Uttar Pradesh	119.4	101.6	107.2
West Bengal	21.1	26.3	26.6
Pondicherry	3.7	3.4	3.6
ALL INDIA	7828.9	8061.6	7813.6

Norms for sanctioning flood and cyclone relief to States

15. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for sanctioning flood/cyclone relief to States by the Centre;

(b) the quantum of flood/cyclone relief demanded by Tamil Nadu during the recent flood in the State;

(c) the relief sanctioned by the Centre; and

(d) the reasons for sanctioning lesser relief?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Under the existing scheme for financing relief expenditure, the Calamity Relief Fund for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities was allocated by the Tenth Finance Commission to various States on the basis of the trend of such expenditure incurred by the State Governments during the last ten years. In the wake of a calamity of rare severity Government of India provide additional assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

(b) Government of Tamil Nadu have submitted a memorandum seeking additional assistance of Rs. 621.55 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of heavy rains and floods of December, 1996.

(c) and (d) Government of India have released Rs. 44.51 crores to the State Government during the current year as their share of the Calamity Relief Fund. On receipt of the memorandum seeking additional assistance, a Central team was deputed to assess the situation. Based on the report of the Central Team, the National Calamity Relief Committee will shortly decide the quantum of additional assistance, if any, to be provided from the NFCR.

Drought-Hit areas

16. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the areas and districts declared as 'drought hit', this year in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and in other States; and

(b) the Central aid and assistance given for drought relief measures, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) According to the information received from the State Government, 1733 villages of 4 districts in Gujarat and 1650 villages of 7 districts in Maharashtra have been declared drought hit during 1996-97. In addition drought conditions in varying degrees prevail in 25 Tehsils of 7 districts in Madhya Pradesh and 15818 villages of 18 districts in Orissa.

(b) Government of India have released the following funds to the above States from the Calamity Relief Fund for relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought during 1996-97:—

(Rs. in crores)

States	Central share of Calamity Relief Fund released
Gujarat	104.70
Madhya Pradesh	38.31
Maharashtra	51.15
Orissa	36.76

In addition an ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 13.00 crores has also been released to Orissa from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

Sugarcane production in Maharashtra

17. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established tissue culture laboratories and heat treatment plants for substantially improving production and productivity of sugarcane in Maharashtra, particularly in Nagpur and other parts of Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set-up such laboratories/plants in Nagpur and other parts of Vidarbha region on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System, the Government of Maharashtra have assisted State Agricultural Universities and Non-Governmental Organisations for strengthening of tissue culture laboratories and heat treatment plants for improving production and productivity of sugarcane in the State. During 1995-96, assistance has been given to three State Agricultural Universities and one Non-Governmental Organisation. Besides, six heat treatment plants were commissioned.

Heat treatment plants is being provided under above scheme to sugar factories in Vidarbha region.

Area under paddy cultivation in Punjab

18. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land in Punjab under paddy cultivation during the last three years;

(b) whether any financial assistance for undertaking research and development of paddy has been provided to the State during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to increase production of paddy in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The area under paddy cultivation in Punjab during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was 21.79 lakh hectares, 22.77 lakh hectares and 21.61 lakh hectares respectively.

(b) to (d) The financial assistance provided to Punjab State for undertaking research and development of paddy under the All-India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project by Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 9.11 lakhs, Rs. 10.10 lakhs and Rs. 10.08 lakhs respectively. Further, to increase the production and productivity of paddy, the Government is implementing a centrally sponsored Integrated Cereals Development Programme in wheat based cropping system areas which include the development of rice crop as well in Punjab (earlier Integrated Programme of Rice Development (IPRD) in 1993-94), besides providing price and market support to the farmers. Under this programme, the financial assistance to the Punjab State during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs. 192.80 lakhs, Rs. 39.76 lakhs and Rs. 355.00 lakhs respectively.

Monitoring of funds for rehabilitation of Latur victims

19. SHRI SANJAY DALMIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of donations received from